

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA:ROAKLEY:CB
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HOLBROOKE
EA/EP:AGEBER

-----126917 080850Z /15

R 072349Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199429

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, OCON, JA, VM, ECIN

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN TALKS

1. DAS OAKLEY BRIEFED JAPANESE EMBASSY FULLY AUGUST 4 AND 5 ON US-ASEAN MEETING AS AGREED BETWEEN HOLBROOKE AND AMBASSADOR TOGO. EMBASSY HAS GIVEN DETAILED RUNDOWN OF DISCUSSION ON EACH AGENDA ITEM AS WELL AS TEXT OF JOINT PRESS STATEMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL RESULT. EMBASSY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR RAPID, COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING.

2. JAPANESE WERE MOST INTERESTED ECONOMICALLY IN EMPHASIS UPON COMMON FUND AND POSSIBILITY OF WORKING WITH ASEAN TO ACHIEVE NORTH-SOUTH AGREEMENT, AND POLITICALLY IN ASEAN VIEWS ON VIETNAM. ON FORMER POINT, THEY ACKNOWLEDGED GOJ DESIRE TO FIND A COMPROMISE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO G-19 AND G-77 (A GOS VIEW TO WHICH ASEAN DELS HAD REFERRED).

3. ON VIETNAM, OAKLEY OBSERVED THAT IN SET SPEECHES, IMPROMPTU INTERVENTIONS AND PRIVATE TALKS ASEAN DELS HAD
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ALL EXPRESSED NEED FOR CAUTION IN DEALING WITH SUDDEN VIETNAMESE EAGERNESS TO COURT ASEAN AS AN INSTITUTION AND ITS MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY. MALAYSIA WAS MOST RECEPTIVE AND SINGAPORE THE LEAST TO VIETNAMESE ADVANCES BUT ALL SEEMED IN AGREEMENT THAT THERE IS REASON TO RESPOND WITH

INTEREST BUT NOT TO CHANGE BASIC BELIEF THAT SRV IS

POTENTIAL MAJOR THREAT. THERE WAS NO INDICATION ASEAN INTENDS ACCEPT SRV AS MEMBER OR TO CHANGE ASEAN INTO BROADER GROUPING TO ACCOMMODATE SRV. ASEAN MEMBERS IMPRESSED US AS SATISFIED WITH THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE AT LEAST FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ALL HOPE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN CAMBODIA, VIETNAM AND CHINA WILL NOT SHIFT EITHER IN DIRECTION SRV HEGEMONY OVER ALL OF INDOCHINA OR IN DIRECTION OF ESCALATING HOSTILITIES BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM.

4. REPORT OF MEETING WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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